

<sup>15</sup>  
~~18~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>13</sup>~~16~~, wherein said substrate is a natural or synthetic cork, and said coating or diffusion layer prevents or inhibits passage of flavor-active or odor-active compounds from said cork to an alcoholic beverage in contact with said cork.

<sup>16</sup>  
~~19~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>15</sup>~~18~~, wherein said flexible component is sufficiently flexible to allow the coated cork to be compressed and then to recover during a bottling process.

<sup>17</sup>  
~~20~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>13</sup>~~16~~, wherein said flavor-active compounds are trichloroanisoles (TCA).

<sup>18</sup>  
~~21~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>13</sup>~~16~~, wherein said copolymer is selected from the group consisting of graft, alternating and block copolymers.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~22~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>13</sup>~~16~~, wherein said flexible component is formed from silicon-based monomers.

<sup>20</sup>  
~~23~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>13</sup>~~16~~, wherein said copolymer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylacetate (PVA) copolymers, polyurethane copolymers and ionomers, terephthalate copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile (SAN)/ acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) copolymers, (vinylidene) copolymers, epoxy copolymers, amide copolymers, Bisphenol copolymers, Bisphenol A (BPA) - epichlorohydrin copolymers, poly (methyl) methacrylate copolymers, poly(methacrylic acid) copolymers, cellulose copolymers, polyethylene vinyl alcohol copolymers, silane copolymers and siloxane copolymers.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~24~~. (Amended) A method according to Claim <sup>20</sup>~~23~~, wherein said copolymer is a polyvinylacetate (PVA) copolymer.